

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2011 1:18 PM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily
Subject: Fireworks Safety

City of Norman
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The City of Norman wants everyone to be safe on the Fourth of July and leave the fireworks to the professionals. Discharging fireworks within the City of Norman is illegal without having first received a Special Permit issued by the Norman Fire Department. This Special Permit is restricted for use by pyrotechnic professional groups only.

Each July 4th, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death.

Facts & figures

In 2009, fireworks caused an estimated 18,000 reported fires, including 1,300 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in no reported civilian deaths, 30 civilian injuries and \$38 million in direct property damage. In 2009, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,800 people for fireworks related injuries; 53% of 2009 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 42% were to the head. The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 10-14, with more than twice the risk for the general population.

On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day and fireworks account for more than half of those fires. Based on the amount of time and quantities in use, fireworks pose a higher risk of fire death than any other consumer product. Although cigarettes are the leading cause of fire death, the risk that someone will die from fire when fireworks are being used is three times the corresponding risk than when cigarettes are burning.

To avoid the danger of fire and the possibility of injury, the Norman Fire Department recommends that everyone attend the professional fireworks display during Norman Day at Reeves Park.

For additional information please contact the Norman Fire Marshals office at (405)-292-9780.

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